



Thousands turn out for annual Home Show in Hulman Center

By Joanne Hammer

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— Nothing cures a dreary day better than dreaming about swimming pools, landscaping and home improvements.

Wabash Valley residents had that chance this weekend during the 2006 Home Show sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Greater Terre Haute Inc.

More than 5,000 people attended the three-day event in Hulman Center, which featured almost 90 companies ranging from cabinet installers to landscape designers.

"We're here getting ideas," said Marsha Langley of Perrysville, who was visiting the show Sunday with her daughter, Kerri Langley. "We're mostly looking at pools and cabinets," she said, looking at a large swimming pool inlaid with tile.

The show serves as a one-stop shop for anything related to the house and garden.

"People are getting ready for spring and can get ideas about what to do," said Marsha Doan, executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Greater Terre Haute Inc. "They can shop under one roof in one day."

Popular items this year are retro-style appliances, cabinets covered with a light color-wash and counter tops, she said.

On the ground floor of the Hulman Center, Landscapes by Dallas Foster Inc. stole the show with tulips, holly and purple hyacinths planted in hardwood mulch among a winding stone pathway. The Vincennes-based company incorporates a natural design in its plantings, said Darrin Huss, installation foreman. Another show-stopper was Everything Water, which featured a small waterfall around rustic-looking stones and water plants. The Terre Haute-based company, owned by Mike Ames and Randy Osburn, offer ponds, aquariums and waterscapes.

Home Show visitors could also see cardboard houses built by 50 Vigo County School Corp. sixth-graders for the Tech Town USA project. The program is supported by the Home Builders Association and gives students the opportunity to draw scaled house plans and win awards for the best designs.

"It shows them how math, science and English apply in the real world," said Doug Dillion, a tech teacher at Honey Creek Middle School and chairman for the Indiana Builders Association Educational Committee. "It introduces the construction industry and gets the kids excited."

Meanwhile, visitors carried bags of company brochures and registered to win free spas while they scoped out home improvement ideas.

"We've had a good turnout," said Jim Chapman, owner of Norm's Mirror Image Glass Inc. "It's better than last year."

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